

# East of Eden



NUMBER 9

May 16th, 1981

# East of Eden

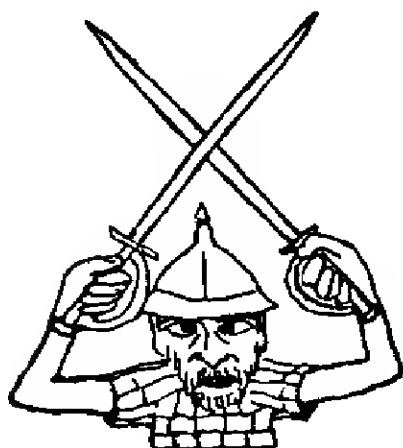
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EAST OF EDEN is one of the greatest bargains in the history of the postal Diplomacy hobby. Over 450 copies have been sent out and, so far, nobody has paid a single cent for any of them.

EoE is published by John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811. Postal Diplomacy games in EoE would be otherwise carried in BLACK FROG. EoE is primarily a vehicle to expedite the publication of game adjudications. Diplomacy is a multi-player war game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and currently owned by Avalon Hill Co.

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**PLEASE FORGIVE ME  
IF, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE,**



**I SOMETIMES  
FORGET  
WHICH SIDE  
I'M ON.**

.....

Six days after I promised that there wouldn't be any more issues of EoE until June 2nd, along comes this. And, I am supposed to have started my vacation today.

I did go to Huntsville last week. I left Monday afternoon and got back Thursday night (a day later than intended). I was leaving on my vacation today, but as a

result of Huntsville, I have to give a presentation at Lockheed on Thursday (May 22nd) and have had to postpone my vacation. The vacation has become very indefinite at the moment.

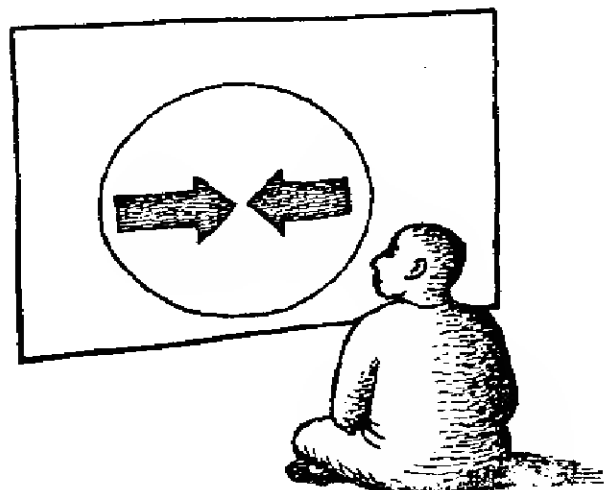
So what does one do when his vacation trip to Oregon is screwed up? Either publish a fake issue of Volkerwanderung or an extra issue of East of Eden. Well, I may end up doing both, but I'll start with this.

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Issues 7 and 8 were pretty much what I had originally intended Black Frog to be like when I started publishing it one year ago this month. Small frequent issues, a small circulation, and a heavy emphasis on well run games. Black Frog ran amuck when I let the circulation grow too large. East of Eden was devised as an attempt to salvage the original concept of Black Frog. East of Eden has a current circulation of about 40. The current circulation of Black Frog is 83, having come down from a high of 94 (and I would like to have it continue to drop to a number around 60).

Until late last night, I never invisioned that I would ever send out a non-game issue of EoE. But I am. A letter from Bruce Linsey (see page 6) has prompted this. The Linsey letter is in regard to a brief note that appeared in EoE. His response would have been better placed in Black Frog, but I see no reason to expand the controversy to a wider circle of people than necessary.

I was intending on putting an announcement (with ballots) for the Leeder Poll in the next issue of Black Frog, but instead will do it here to fill out this issue.



I don't have  
any solution,  
but I  
certainly  
admire  
the problem.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The

### FIFTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL

One of each years more important hobby events is the annual 'zine poll conducted by John Leeder (Runestone) and commonly known as the "Leeder Poll". All members of the hobby (players and/or subbers) are asked to rate the 'zines they receive on a scale of 0 to 10 (10 is tops, 0 is pits) and send this to John Leeder (121 19 Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 1N9). In order to count, ballots must be received before June 30th.

You may use your own criteria in voting. John only asks that you list the zines you are voting for in alphabetical order in order to help him score your votes.

Subzines are to be voted upon and scored seperately from their parent zine.

The 'zine poll is important and I would like to see every hobby member participate in it this year. In the past, "Leeder Poll" results have been clouded, to some extent, by grudge votes. It is my recommendation that participants vote only for zines that they actually receive and for which they have received at least 3 copies in the last year.

To aid in your voting effort, I am enclosing a form that can be filled out to simplify your voting. You should, in some way, indicate your participation in the hobby. (Indicate a game you are playing in or a 'zine you subscribe to.)

Also, for your interest, I am enclosing the results of the 1980 and 1979 polls + the 1980 "Freshman Class" poll.

#### Results of the 4th (1980) Annual North American Zine Poll

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1.	<u>Fol Si Fie</u>	8.00
2.	<u>Volkerwanderung</u>	7.86
2.	<u>The National</u>	7.86
4.	<u>Diplomacy World</u>	7.66
5.	<u>Emhain Macha</u>	7.50
6.	<u>Politician</u>	7.50
7.	<u>Why Me?</u>	7.43
8.	<u>Brutus Bulletin</u>	7.41
9.	<u>Dragon &amp; The Lamb</u>	7.33
10.	<u>Voice of Doom</u>	7.23

11.	<u>Everything</u>	7.21
12.	<u>Cheesecake</u>	7.19
13.	<u>Diplomacy Digest</u>	7.16
14.	<u>Murd'ring Ministers</u>	7.05
15.	<u>St. George &amp; Dragon</u>	6.91
16.	<u>Runestone</u>	6.90
17.	<u>Egg Nog</u>	6.89
18.	<u>Envoy</u>	6.89
19.	<u>Claw &amp; Fang</u>	6.82
20.	<u>Dogs of War</u>	6.82
21.	<u>Retaliation</u>	6.69

Results of the 3rd (1979) Annual North American Zine Poll  
 .....

1.	<u>Graustark</u>	
2.	<u>Dragon &amp; the Lamb</u>	
3.	<u>Why Me?</u>	
4.	<u>Claw &amp; Fang</u>	
5.	<u>Diplomacy Digest</u>	
6.	<u>Diplomacy World</u>	
7.	<u>Runestone</u>	
8.	<u>Arrakis</u>	
9.	<u>Lies, Deceit &amp; Nefarious Schemes</u>	
10.	<u>St. George &amp; the Dragon</u>	
11.	<u>Fol Si Fie</u>	
12.	<u>Egg Nog</u>	
13.	<u>Brutus Bulletin</u>	
14.	<u>Liberterrean</u>	
15.	<u>Ter-ran</u>	
16.	<u>Brouhaha</u>	
17.	<u>Passchendaele</u>	
18.	<u>Ruritania</u>	
19.	<u>Ninth Circle</u>	
20.	<u>Command</u>	

Results of the 1st (1980) Freshman Class Poll  
 .....

1.	<u>Jihad!</u>	8.24
2.	<u>Black Frog</u>	8.20
3.	<u>Plague Times</u>	7.66
4.	<u>Lone Star Diplomat</u>	7.57
5.	<u>Just among Friends</u>	6.78
6.	<u>Life of Monty</u>	6.50
7.	<u>Torpedo</u>	6.32
8.	<u>Appalling Greed</u>	5.70
9.	<u>Invasion</u>	5.65

10.	<u>Born to Dip</u>	5.29
11.	<u>Prospectus</u>	4.33
12.	<u>Mike's Mag</u>	3.75



# ANNOUNCEMENT

The

## FOURTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GM'S POLL

At the same time as the "Leeder 'Zine Poll", John Leeder is conducting the "Leeder GM Poll". Similarly to the Zine Poll, all hobby members are urged to send in ballots. Vote on a scale of 0 to 10 (10 = tops; 0 = pits) and vote for any GM you have played under.

To aid in your voting effort, I am also enclosing a form that can be filled out to simplify your voting.

Votes for GM's have, in the past, seemed to be widely scattered and really not as significant as the voting for zines. For this reason the GM poll never has seemed as significant to me. Perhaps the solution would be to get more people to participate in the voting.

## 1980 GM Poll Results



<u>place</u>	<u>name</u>	<u>average score</u>	<u># of votes</u>
1.	Don Ditter	9.67	3
1.	Eric Verheiden	9.67	3
3.	Doug Beyerlein	9.33	3
4.	John Daly	9.14	7
5.	Steve Heinowski	9.14	7
6.	Bob Sergeant	9.11	9
7.	Bob Osuch	9.00	3
8.	Lee Kendter, Sr.	8.88	16
9.	John Leeder	8.78	9
10.	Roy Henricks	8.75	4
11.	John Michalski	8.69	16
12.	Robert Sacks	8.67	3
13.	Fred Davis	8.60	5
14.	Bob Arnett	8.55	11
15.	Andy Lischett	8.38	8
16.	Dick Martin	8.30	
17.	Steve McLendon	8.16	19

## THE BRUCE LINSEY QUESTION

Around about April 1st, I received a letter from Bob Olsen. Bob said that he had started a new game in Europa Express and that Bruce Linsey was in that game. He knew that I had been in a postal game with Linsey and asked for my comments on what kind of player and ally Linsey was.

Linsey has been a major personality in the hobby for the past couple of years (primarily by the publication of his 'zine Voice of Doom) but he has only had two game starts in regular Diplomacy (1979CF and 1979CV). For him to be starting another game seemed to me to be a news item. So, I published a short note in East of Eden (#5, April 8th, 1981). To this I added a couple of brief comments for Bob Olsen (Olsen being the only player in the EE game to receive EoE.) This is what was printed:

.....  
Bruce Linsey starts another one! No not another hobby feud, another game of postal diplomacy. In the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  years he has been in the hobby, BruX has started only two games of regular Diplomacy: 1979CF where he won as Germany and 1979CV where he will come in third as England in a game that will be ending soon. He is now starting his third game in Europa Express.

To the other players in this game--watch out. It is not that Linsey is any more skilled than you, but he is playing in one game while you are probably in ten or fifteen. For every letter you can write, he can and will write a dozen. And, I know from personal experience that BruX is very much concerned about the ratings and plays the game to win. If I were to ever produce a stab list (a la Bob Arnett) he would be right at the top.  
.....

A concise little note. The first paragraph providing facts only and the 2nd paragraph providing my personal opinion only. This engendered the following reply from Linsey:

.....  
5/11/81

Dear Jack,

I have just received a copy of your statements about me in EoE, via one of your subbers. I have a problem with some of what you said.

In the first place, I see nothing wrong with playing to win, and I don't deny that I am guilty of this

now and then. However, to say that I am concerned about my ratings is fully and categorically false. I could care less whether I have a good rating, a poor one, or no rating at all.

Secondly, and of far greater importance, what earthly concern is it of yours what I do in my EE game? If it turns out that I stab someone and go for the win--not a foregone conclusion, I might add --what do you care? You're not in the game, so why should it bother you?

I resent the fact that you feel you must warn the other players in my games about me, and I wonder how you would feel if I did that to you. I thought we had straightened this out when you denounced Rodriguez some time ago.

Finally, you could at least have sent me a copy of the issue with your comments.

I feel generally that you concern yourself with other people's games more than you ought to; this is the second time you've taken it upon yourself to try to influence the course of a game you aren't playing in. I would like a reply to this, either in EoE or personally. But my initial reaction is that you are simply carrying a grudge from '79CV beyond all reason.

Best,

((signed "Brux"))

.....

#### A reply to Brux

(1.) Nobody has said that there is anything wrong with playing to win. But is there anything wrong with being branded as a win only player, when your record speaks for itself? You have had two postal gamestarts. In 1979CF as Germany, you stabbed your main ally (Paul Hefti as Italy) and went on to a win. In 1979CV as England you had a two-way draw locked up but decided to stab your French ally; the stab backfired on you and you are losing the game.

(2.) It is and remains my opinion that you are very concerned about ratings. Others are entitled to their opinion and mine could well be wrong.

(3.) No I don't give a damn what happens in 1981AM (your Europa Express game).

(4.) I have never warned players in your games about you. Bob Olsen wrote and asked about you. Bob Olsen is the only player in 1981AM that received EoE. I have also played in a game with Bob Olsen, if you want to ask about



him, I will be happy to tell you. Bob is playing in some 20+ postal games at the moment. For him to start a new game is hardly newsworthy.

(5.) A persons playing record is public information. You are very foolish if you don't check out the playing style of any player unfamiliar to you in a new game start. You can do this by looking up his gamestarts and finishes in Everything. Going through back issues of the appropriate 'zines and seeing how he plays. End game statements and press releases often give valuable insights. Also look and see how often he NMR's or drops games. Another method is to write players who have been in games with him and get their opinion. I get requests for information of this type all of the time. (If anybody is interested, the persons that I have been asked about most frequently are Allen Wells, Bob Arnett and Dan Kuszynski--Olsen is the only one to ever ask about Linsey.)

(6.) I should have sent you a copy of the issue. I apologize. I overlooked this due to the fact that you get Black Frog but not East of Eden.

(7.) For you to feel that I concern myself with other peoples games more than I ought to, represents your opinion and you are entitled to your opinion--just like I am entitled to my opinion that you are very concerned about your ratings.

(8.) If anybody is carrying a grudge about 1979CV, I would say it was you. Let the game record speak for itself. In March of 1980 our F/E alliance had a two-way draw locked up. You decided that a 2-way was not good enough for Brux and stabbed me. Not only that but you worked very hard and had the entire board organized against me. My position was desperate, but I pulled off a major deception (by leading you to think that I was quitting the hobby and resigning from the game) and got back into it. The game is now being played in 1909 and is completely turned around. I have a 15-center France and you have a 5-center England. My guess is that by the end of 1909, I will have 17 centers and you will be reduced to two. I would have been very happy with a two-way draw in the game, instead I may be getting a win (without having to stab anybody on the way) --now why should I be carrying a grudge?



John H. Masters  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Contains game results for:

- ( ) 1980HR "War"
- ( ) 1980HS "Famine"
- ( ) 1980HU "Pestilence"
- ( ) 1980ID "Death"
- ( ) 1980KJ "V.I.P."
- ( ) 1981K "Greed"
- ( ) 1981\_\_ "Lust"
- ( ) 1981\_\_ "Diplomacy"